Coral

Caldecott Honor Winner

Molly Idle

$17.99 U.S.
$22.99 CAN.

It takes three for the reef to flourish.

Coral, Filly, and Manta live on a sunlit reef teeming with sea life. When Coral comes upon an empty hollow at the heart of the reef and tries to keep it as her very own, Filly and Manta are banished. But all that grows in the wake of her anger is regret, and Coral must find a way to turn the tide...but she can't do it alone.

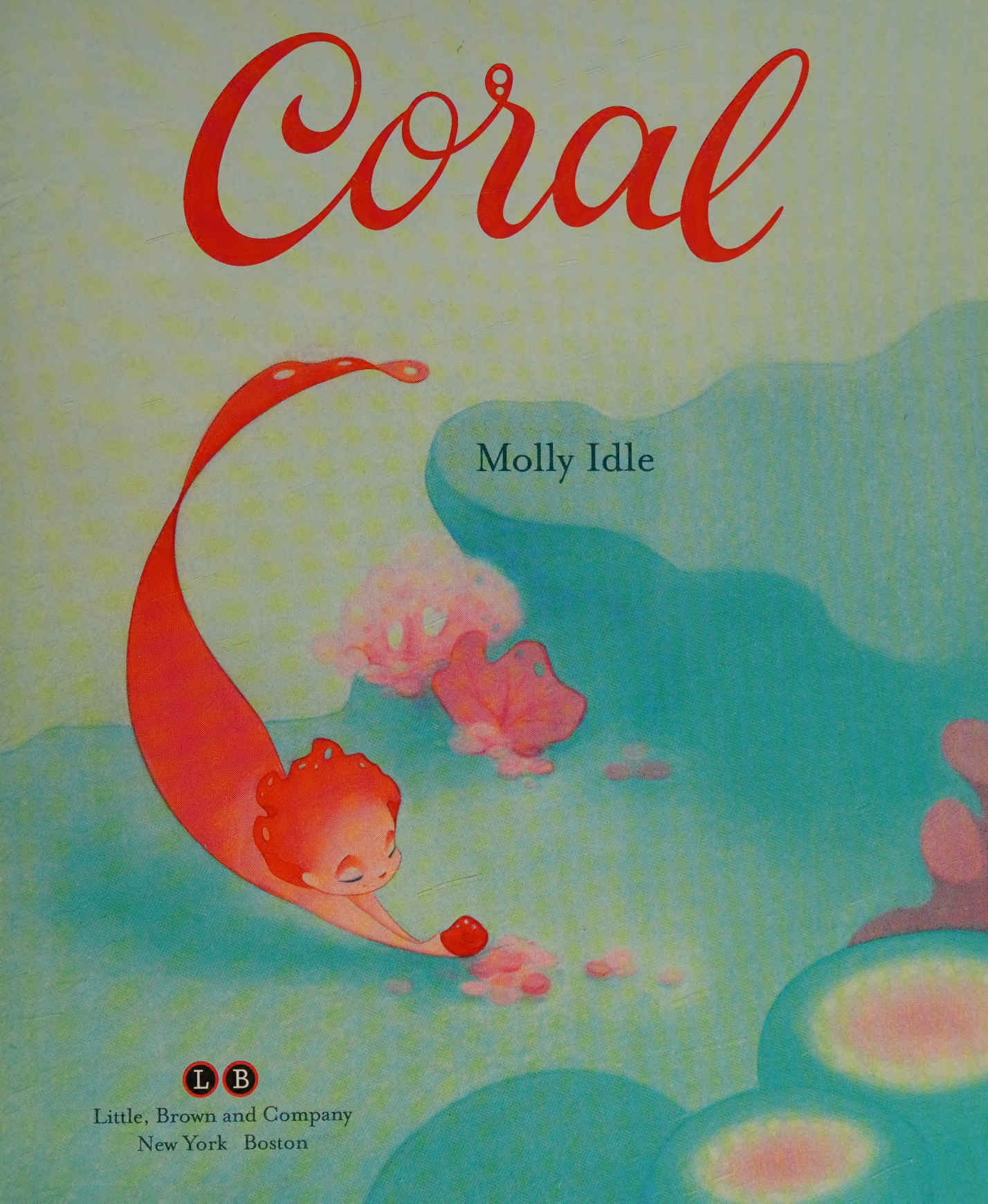
Caldecott Honor–winning author and artist Molly Idle has brilliantly illustrated a tale both timeless and timely, about the power of collaboration and the profound importance of caring for our environment...and one another.

ALSO BY MOLLY IDLE

★ "A gentle, glowing lesson that even the smallest efforts can lead to large, even environmental results."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Sure to captivate."
—*School Library Connection*, starred review

Coral

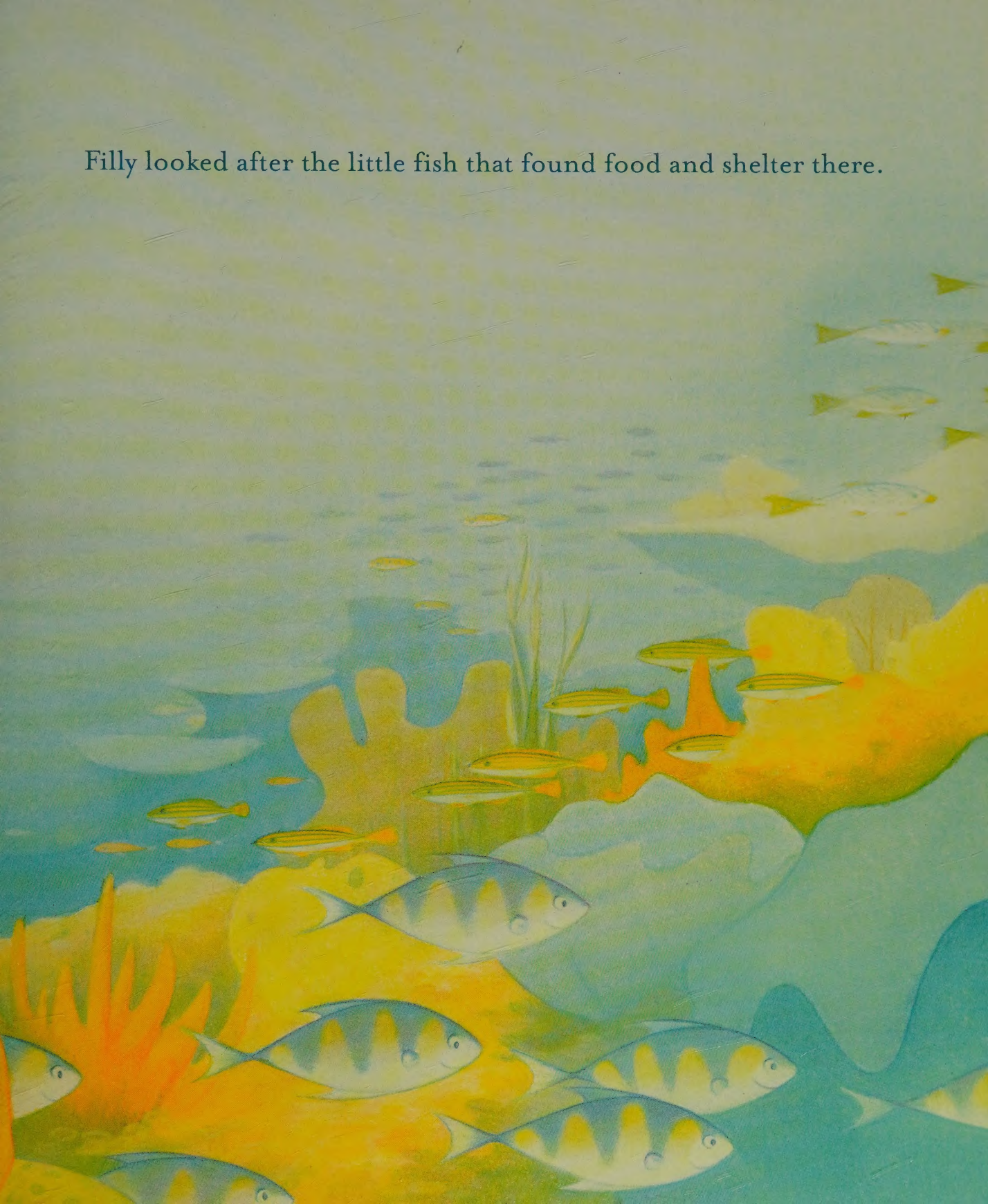


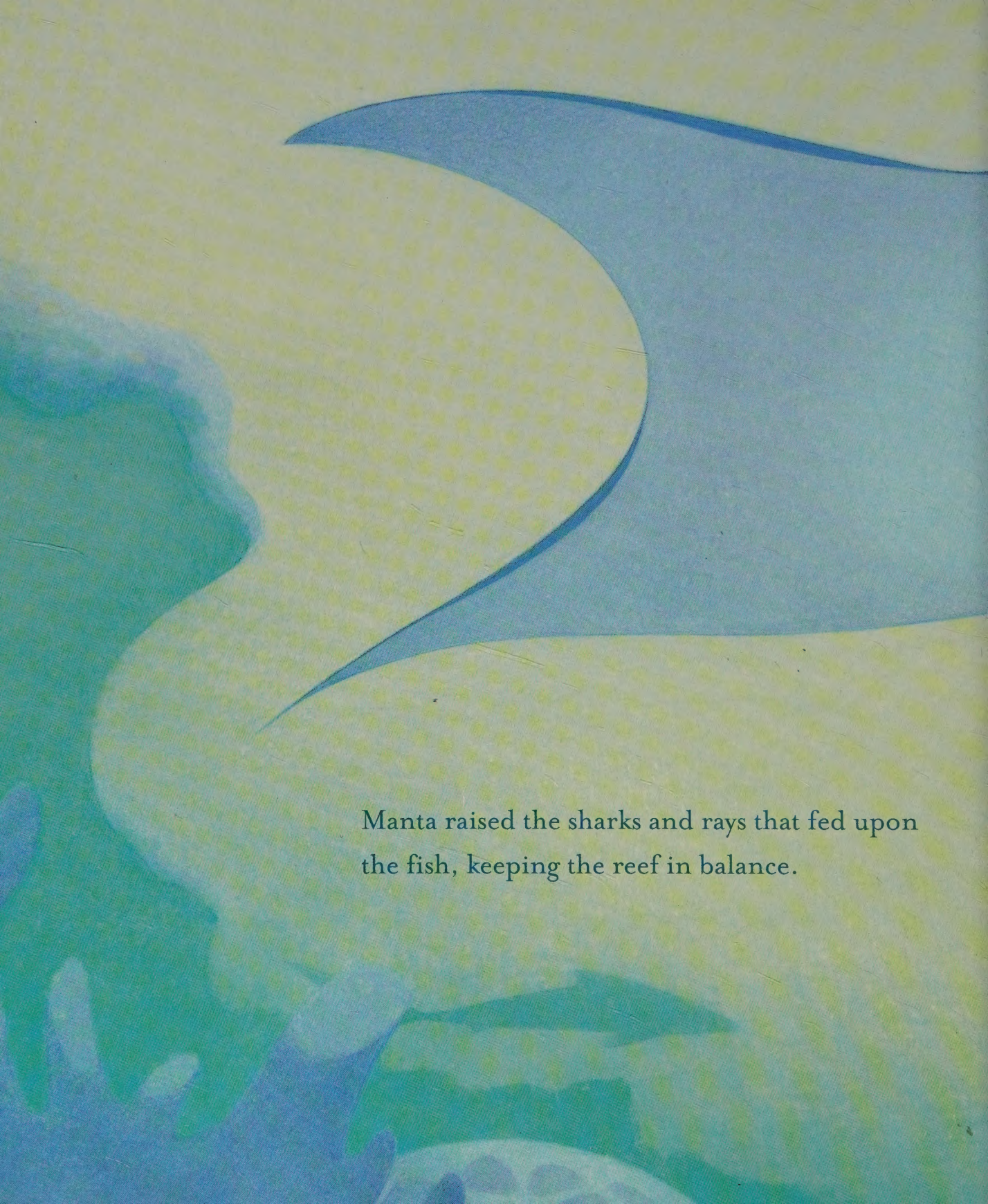
Molly Idle

Little, Brown and Company
New York Boston

In the sunlight, in the sea, three mermaids made their home. Coral created the reef itself.

Filly looked after the little fish that found food and shelter there.





Manta raised the sharks and rays that fed upon the fish, keeping the reef in balance.

And so their home was whole and well
while each one shared their part.

But one day, as Coral made her way among the cays, she came upon an empty hollow, hidden in the very heart of the reef.

And as she sheltered there from the busy
shoals above, an idea took root with Coral.
She began to think that she should keep
this haven for her very own.

No nibbling fish. No rushing rays.
Just the sunlight, and the sea, and Coral.

So when Filly found her settled there,
Coral's face grew pale—for in her heart,
she did not wish to share.

Then close on Filly's tail came Manta, stirring up a cloud of sand—
and Coral's temper too.

Filling up with white-hot anger, Coral cried, "Enough!"

"You've ruined everything!" she shouted. "I don't want you here."
"But there's room enough for all of us," said Filly as she shied away.
Manta moved to side with her. "We make our home here too."
"I make the reef," Coral countered. "All you make is a mess!"

Her heated words broke over them in waves, driving Filly and Manta from the heart of the reef.

Coral planted herself stubbornly back in place.

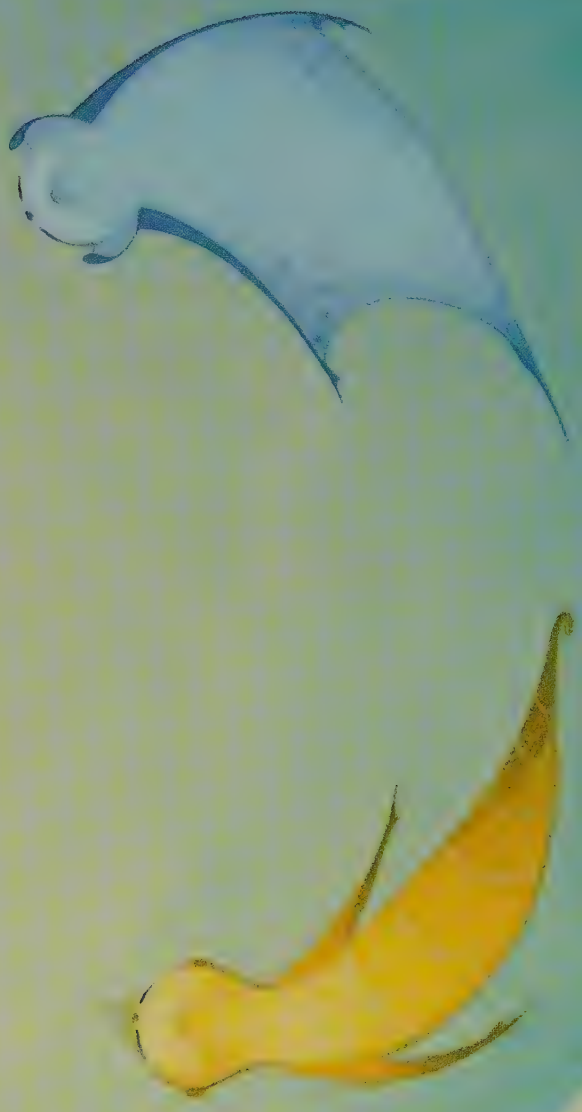
But all that grew in the wake of her anger was a feeling of regret.

No nibbling fish. No rushing rays.
Just the sunlight and the sea.

Coral knew then that it was she, and she alone,
who had ruined everything.

And that, alone, she could not set it right.

Reaching out to Filly and Manta,
Coral called, "Please wait! I can make
the reef, but I cannot make it a home...

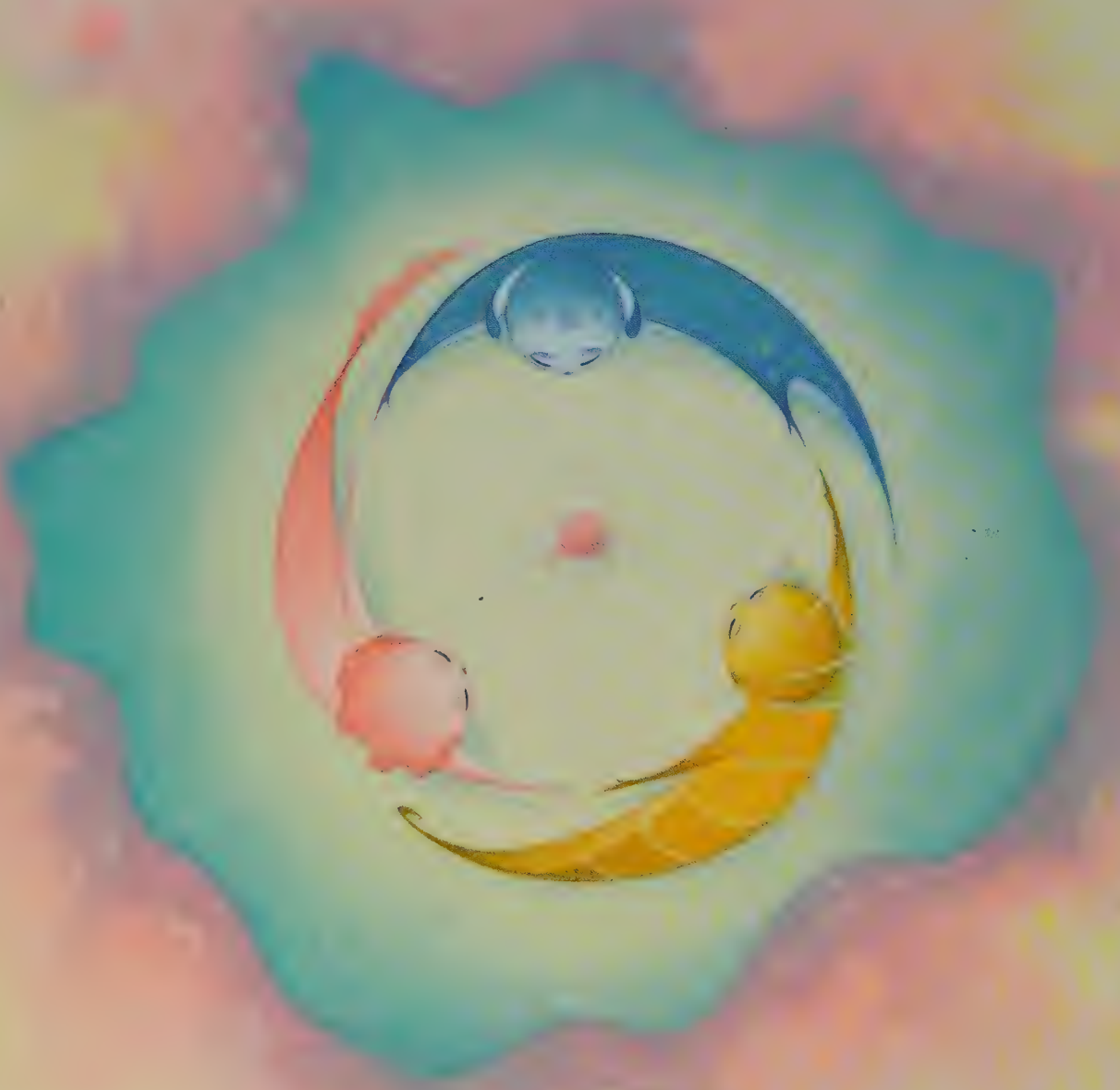


...without you."

"It takes all of us."

Joining hands, they shared a smile.

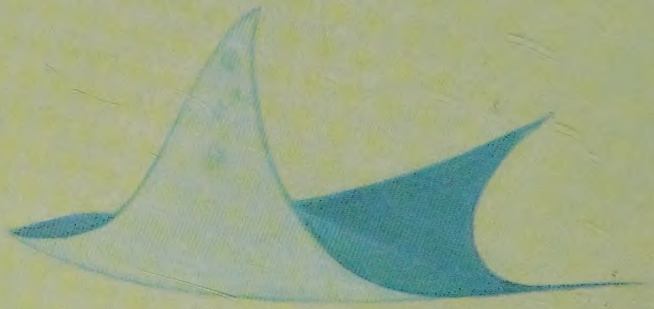
So it was that Coral, and Filly, and Manta returned to the heart of the reef.



And in the sunlight, in the sea,
three mermaids made their home...

...together.

For all of us



ABOUT THIS BOOK

The illustrations for this book were created with Prismacolor pencils on vellum-finished Bristol. This book was edited by Andrea Spooner and designed by Saho Fujii. The production was supervised by Erika Schwartz, and the production editor was Jen Graham. The text was set in Mrs Eaves, and the display type was hand-lettered by Frances MacLeod.

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Molly Idle is the award-winning creator of many books, including *Pearl* and the Caldecott Honor Book *Flora and the Flamingo*. When she was small, Molly wanted to be an artist, a marine biologist, and a mermaid, and making this book let her be a bit of each. She invites you to see more of her work at idleillustration.com.

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